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BULLETIN

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BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Library - Center for Children's Books. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

The book evaluations appearing in this Bulletin are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

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Bailey, Flora. Between the four mountains; dec. by Ralph Ray. Macmillan, c1949. 197p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D59)

Another story of the Wayne family and their friends among the Navaho Indians. There is much valuable information about the lives and customs of modern Indians, with particular emphasis on some of their festivals. The story is slight and moves too slowly to hold the reader's attention alone. The chief value of the book will be for classes that are studying the modern Indian.

Balch, Glenn. Christmas horse; il. by Pers Crowell. Crowell, 1949. 246p. \$2.75.

A sequel to Wild Horse, but lacking in the suspense and action that made the other book popular. The story centers around Ben's training of the colt that was captured in the band of wild horses. The training is complicated by the fact that Ben must leave the ranch and spend the winter in town where he attends school. The only conflict is between Ben and time - or, rather, his lack of time. The ardent horse fan will find interest in the details of breaking and training a colt, but the horse story fan will find little in the book to recommend it.

Beery, Mary. Manners made easy. Whittlesey, 1949. 327p. \$5.00. j&shs.

Problems of how to act under a variety of social situations. The approach is that of convention (doing a thing because it is the conventional thing to do) - not a strong argument for most modern youngsters. The book has value for guidance classes although it skims the matter of smoking and drinking with a brief - nice boys and girls don't. Not recommended for general library purchase unless there is a need for this type of approach.

Belm, Lorraine (Levey). Hurry back; il. by Edgar Levey. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 200p. \$2.25.

Gr. 4-6. (D20;D37)

Sandra and Seth felt that their family was incomplete and they were not so fortunate as their friends because they lived in New York and all their relatives lived in California. Of course there were always interesting packages at Christmas and birthdays but that did not make up for not getting to see their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. One summer the family finally decided they could afford to drive across country - if they picniced and camped along the way. It was a long trip and there were moments when the children became very tired of driving, but the fun they had getting acquainted with their relatives was worth it. The author has dragged in some stock characters and situations, i.e., the cousin who has no money and has to work too hard, and, by way of contrast, the poor-little-rich-boy with too much of everything except family affection; but on the whole the characters and situations are acceptable.

Bethers, Ray. Perhaps I'll be a sailor; pictures and story by Ray Bethers. Aladdin, 1949. 50p. \$1.75. Gr. 6-8.

A beginning book for boys who are interested in the Navy as a career. At first glance this looks to be a book intended for the middle elementary grades. However the text is of junior high school level and the greatest interest should be there. Good illustrations that help explain the text.

Billings, Augusta. Gilbert, the gay poodle; by Augusta and Henry Billings. Viking, 1949. 32p. \$1.50. Gr. 1-3.

A gay story of a poodle who entered a radio quiz program and won a new car. The humor is of the completely ridiculous type that young readers enjoy, and the theme of the quiz program is timely enough to add interest. Not a lasting book, but one that will be enjoyed for the moment.

Bischoff, Ilse. The wonderful poodle. Crowell, 1949. 79p. \$2.25.

Another story of a poodle. This one fails to give the same satisfaction as the Billings book. The scene is laid in Vienna in the 19th century. The story moves rather slowly and the characters are completely lifeless. There is little here either in story or illustrations to hold the interest of the child.

Black, Irma (Simonton). Maggie, a mischievous magpie; pictures by Barbara Latham. Holiday house, 1949. 58p. \$1.50. Gr. 2-4.

A nicely done book for easy reading in the second and third grades. The sometimes strained

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relations between Maggie, a magpie, and Midge, a puppy, make a lively story interspersed with four brief poems, the last of which parents may find useful to remember when family squabbles threaten. The amusing black-and-white illustrations, large print, and wide spaces between the lines will encourage the beginning reader. Also useful for remedial reading in the fourth and fifth grades.

Boylston, Helen (Dore). Sue Barton, neighborhood nurse; with frontispiece by Major Felton. Little, Brown, 1949. 236p. \$2.50.

Seventh in the series of Sue Barton stories. The title is misleading, for the story is about Sue Barton, mother, rather than Sue Barton, nurse. Happily married to Dr. Bill and the mother of three charming children, Sue Barton is having twinges of conscience over the fact that she never practices her profession. A series of minor family crises plus the problems of a neurotic young neighbor show her that her place is definitely in the home. The book has some value in that it deals with the problem of career girl turned housewife. Weak plotting and unnatural dialogue limit the book's usefulness as a teen-age novel.

Brier, Howard M. Backboard magic; il. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Random house, 1949. \$2.50. 275p. Gr. 7-9. (D1;D4)

Stock situations and characters keep this from being an outstanding sports story. Skip Turner moves from a large city high school where he failed to make the team to a small town. Here he has the advantage of individual instruction, makes good, and goes with his team to victory over his former school's team. The descriptions of the games are good, and most of the characters are well handled. There will probably be a place for this book in most libraries during the basketball season. May also be used to point up the contrasts between small town and city life.

Brill, Ethel Claire. Copper country adventure; il. by Bruce Adams. Whittlesey, 1949. 213p. \$2.50.

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harlow came to the Lake Superior region to join his uncle's partner in the search for copper. With the help of friends he thwarts the partner's efforts to cheat him out of his share in the company's holdings and even manages to find a rich vein of ore. The author fails to create a real feeling for either the period or the country. Main characters are fairly well drawn but cannot make up for the contrived situations and weak plot.

Brock, Emma Lillian. Kristie and the colt, and the others; written and il. by Emma L. Brock. Knopf, 1949. 87p. \$2.00. Gr. 2-4. (D4;D37)

The first story tells of further doings of Kristie, Einer and Elmer. Other stories are set in the same region and have the same humor and flavor of the Kristie stories. These are excellent for reading aloud and easy enough for beginning readers to handle alone.

Brooks, Walter Rollin. Freddy plays football; il. by Kurt Wiese. Knopf, 1949. 265p. \$2.50.

Another in the series of Freddy stories. The author has used the same plot (with slight variations) so many times that only the hardest of the Freddy fans will still find interest in this

new addition. Not recommended for general library purchase.

Broomell, Anna Pettit, comp. The friendly story caravan; with an introd. by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Lippincott, 1949. 263p. \$2.75.

A collection of stories about the Quakers from early to modern times. The stories are too obviously made-to-order to have much use for a general library collection. Useful for Church Schools or for the Friends' Schools.

Brown, Marcia. Henry - fisherman; a story of the Virgin Islands. Scribner's, 1949. 30p. \$2.00. 5-8 yrs. (D59)

Henry is a small boy living in the Virgin Islands. His greatest desire is to become a fisherman like his father. The story of his first fishing trip is very slight and probably will not bear many re-readings. The book's chief value lies in the illustrations. These are done with the color and action that children love. The art work in a picture book such as this has a definite contribution to make to the development of a child's aesthetic appreciation that is great enough to offset the slightness of the story.

Brown, Margaret Wise. My world; pictures by Clement Hurd. Harper, 1949. 17p. \$1.50.

This new book by the same combination who did Goodnight Moon is unfortunately not its equal in either text or illustrations. Some of the text is delightful, such as "My bed. Mother's bed. I go to sleep when my story is read. When my prayers are said and when my head is sleepy on the pillow." But most of it is forced as if the author were searching desperately for a rhyming word to complete the thought. The bright reds and yellows, though probably selected for their cheerful connotations, do not have the same warmth found in the similar color scheme of The Box with the Red Wheels (Macmillan, 1949). Children will, however, undoubtedly have lots of fun putting themselves in the place of the bunnies as they go through the familiar, everyday activities. This book would probably be useful in helping little children distinguish between "your's" and "mine", but it does not seem really worthwhile enough to justify wholesale library or nursery school purchase. Insubstantial format.

Brown, Margaret Wise. A pussycat's Christmas; pictures by Helen Stone. Crowell, 1949. 28p. \$1.50.

A seasonal gift book. The story is too slight to be of value for a general library collection. The text rambles over the page until it is difficult to follow. Nice illustrations.

Brown, Margaret Wise. Two little trains; pictures by Jean Charlot. Scott, 1949. 29p.

A picture book about two trains that traveled through rain and snow, under tunnels and over mountains to the West. Such a book has definite possibilities for use as the basis of a discussion about trains and train trips, and the rhythmic prose and repetition will be appealing to children. The "child-like" illustrations are too sketchy and impressionistic to interest small children and having the children ride on top of the roof of open box cars could be confusing. The purple, shocking pink, tan and black color combinations are not pleasing. The use of such illustrations on the basis

that this is the kind of art work children themselves do is unjustifiable. Instead of adults regressing to the children's level, they should be trying to raise the child's appreciation to a more mature level.

Bryant, Bernice Morgan. Fancy free; il. by Evelyn Copelman. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 278p. \$2.50.

A young girl and her mother spend an eventful summer in Mexico City where the girl goes to school, has her first love affair, and does the usual round of sight-seeing. Although based on personal experience the book fails to give a feeling of reality. The description of the girl's first experience with love is much less ably handled than the same situation in Cavanna's Paintbox Summer (Westminster, 1949). There is no real feeling for Mexico or the Mexican people. Much is made at the beginning of the fact that the mother is taking this trip as an opportunity to do some writing, but nothing more is said about the project once Mexico is reached. The reader is left with the feeling that the author would have had a much better book had she written a straightforward account of her summer and omitted the fiction.

Burt, Olive Woolley. Prince of the ranch; the story of a collie; il. by Bob Myers. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 239p. \$2.50.

Tim was quite unhappy when he went to spend the summer with his cousin on a sheep ranch and discovered that his collie was not at all welcome. The story is sentimental almost to the point of being mawkish. Characters lack reality - especially the cousin with his unreasoning dislike for the collie and his love for his own ill-tempered dog. Too weak in both plot and characterizations to have much interest for even dog story fans.

Carmer, Carl Lamson. Hurricane luck; il. by Elizabeth Black Carmer. Aladdin, 1949. 82p. \$1.75.

A slight story of life on the southern coast of Florida. There is an element of interest in the children's going to school in a boat instead of a bus, but little else to recommend the book. The plot is trite and its solution hinges too much on coincidence.

Carroll, Ruth (Robinson). Pet tale; by Ruth and Latrobe Carroll. Oxford, 1949. 42p. \$1.50.

A cumulative tale about a farmer who had a pet horse who had a pet donkey who had a pet lamb who had a pet pig - and on down the line to the pet mouse who had six babies. The story is of the type that very young children usually like. However, it is too long to hold the interest of most pre-school children and too difficult for beginning readers. The difficulty level is about second or third grade and the interest level pre-school through first grade. Its usefulness in remedial reading work is limited by the use of too much text on some pages and too little text on others. The primary value of the book lies in the humorous illustrations.

Caudill, Rebbecca. Schoolhouse in the woods; pictures by Decie Merwin. Winston, 1949. 120p. \$2.00. Gr. 1-3. (D116)

In this sequel to Happy Little Family the author pictures Bonnie's first year in school. The story is told in the episodic style that appeals to beginning readers. Although the scene is laid in the past, first graders will find themselves sharing most of Bonnie's experiences and feelings. A good read-aloud book for home use and a book that beginning readers can handle alone.

Child Study Association of America, comp. Read me another story; il. by Barbara Cooney. Crowell, 1949. 161p. \$2.00. K-gr.2.

Another collection of favorite stories for reading aloud at home or in story hours. The stories range from animals, real and fanciful, through most of the experiences children have with their families and alone. Easy enough for the beginning reader.

Crowley, Maude. Azor and the haddock; pictures by Helen Sewell. Oxford, 1949. 66p. \$2.00.

Azor, the little boy who talks with animals, finds his life becoming quite complicated when he catches a haddock and decides to make a pet of it. The difficulties he has in keeping the fish alive make a slight story with nothing much of real interest.

d'Aulaire, Ingri (Mortenson). Foxie; by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. Doubleday, 1949. 40p. \$2.00. 3-6 yrs.

This picture book about Foxie "who had a head like a fox and a tail that curled like a cinnamon bun" is not only original in theme but has delightful illustrations and excellent format as well. Foxie's insatiable appetite leads him a merry chase - highlighted by his debut on the concert stage as the third member of a musical trio (a singing rooster and pianist-cat are the other two)! Comic strip style end papers repeat some of the incidents of the story. A book that kindergartners through second graders will thoroughly enjoy.

Day-Lewis, Cecil. The Otterbury incident; il. by Edward Ardizzone. Viking, 1949. 160p. \$2.00.

This versatile English author has turned his attention to juvenile literature and has produced a thriller comparable to his own detective stories. Two schoolboy gangs carry on warfare patterned on military tactics gleaned from their recent war experiences. Their operations are interrupted when a school window is broken by a football and the two gangs unite to earn money to repair the damage. Unfortunately their hard and amusingly earned cash is stolen, and once more they unite to retrieve it amidst some blood-curdling experiences.

The story is told with surprising maturity and finesse by one of the boys, and even adults will read it with many a chuckle and gasp. It is almost as though the author had put his tongue in his cheek and parodied the current "whodunnit" on a juvenile level. Problems the adult selector must face are the conversational use of hells and damns and the complete independence of adult authority by the boys as they battle crime. However, the excellence of the story and the stern lecturing of the gang by the police inspector for not enlisting police aid may outweigh these problems.

Dugo, André. Pete the crow. Viking, 1949. 31p. \$2.00. Gr. 2-4.

When Pete was a very young crow he fell out of his nest, was rescued by a farmer and became a family pet. The troubles Pete got into were not amusing to his

owners, but young readers will probably get a chuckle from them. Somewhat sophisticated illustrations.

Eaton, Jeanette. Buckey O'Neill of Arizona; il. by Edward Shenton. Morrow, 1949. 219p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D29)

Buckey O'Neill was one of the most colorful characters to come out of the West. His life reads more like a good "western" than straight biography and Jeanette Eaton has done it justice. She has captured not only the glamor of the man himself, but the excitement and drama of the times in which he lived.

Emery, R.G. T-quarterback. Macrae-Smith, 1949. 201p. \$2.50. Gr. 8-10. (D57)

Two stories this fall have dealt with the problem of what happens to a team when the coach and over-zealous alumni begin to put scores ahead of sportsmanship. Archibald's Touchdown Glory (Westminster, 1949) is the better written of the two. This one has the stock characters and situations neither of which ever seem quite realistic. The writing is not poor enough to ban the book entirely, but it is recommended for large collections only where there is great demand for football stories.

Evernden, Margery. The runaway apprentice; il. by Jeanyee Wong. Random house, 1949. 138p. \$2.50. Gr. 4-7. (D59).

Ho is the irresponsible, fun-loving fourth son of a rich merchant in Peking. When his step-mother's scoldings become too unbearable he runs away and joins a troupe of shadow players. With them he sees much of China and finally manages to save his family from ruin. The story is as lighthearted as Ho himself, and moves easily and rapidly.

Farley, Walter. The Black Stallion and Satan; il. by Milton Menasco. Random house, 1949. 208p. \$2.00. Gr. 7-9.

In some ways this is an improvement over the earlier stories in the Black Stallion series. There is less cruelty to both horses and men and a strong emphasis in the story is Alec's growing up. The story lacks none of the excitement and suspense that have made the earlier books popular and it is doubtful if readers will notice that the plot is beginning to wear a bit thin.

Fisher, Aileen. Over the hills to Nugget; il. by Sandra James. Aladdin, 1949. 121p. \$1.75. Gr. 2-4. (D37)

A pleasant, but not outstanding, story of a family who moved from Michigan to Colorado during the days of the gold rush. The story follows the usual pattern of buying a farm, the threat of fire, selling the family treasures to meet expenses, etc. Easy reading for the third and fourth grades.

Fisher, Dorothea Frances (Canfield). Something old, something new; stories of people who are America; il. by Mary D. Shipman. Scott, 1949. 191p. \$2.50

A miscellany of stories about the author's ancestors that are intended to give the young reader an understanding of the "people who are America." The author intrudes herself into the stories until

they read more like rambling reminiscences of an adult than like real and interesting stories about real and interesting people. There may be some value for social studies classes, but the book is too limited in appeal for general library collections.

Flood, Richard T. The fighting southpaw; il. by Robert Candy. Houghton, Mifflin, 1949. 180p. \$2.25. Gr. 6-8.

Radford Academy is again the scene of a sports story - baseball this time. The hero of the story is lanky, bespectacled, piano-playing "Specs" Irving. Specs joins the team under protest when its star pitcher injures his arm. In making good on the team he overcomes his own inhibitions (caused by his having one time injured a fellow player), and he shows the other boys that piano-playing is not necessarily a sissy activity. A good picture of school life.

Gates, Doris. River Ranch; il. by Jacob Landau. Viking, 1949. 160p. \$2.00.

A melodramatic story of cattle rustling that brings in all the cliches of plot and characters that have ever been used in ranch stories. Ben and Ann are left alone on the ranch with one hired hand - who later turns out to be an F.B.I. agent - while their parents take a vacation. The father has failed to tell his son (a mere child of 20) either that their cattle are being stolen or that the hired man is a special agent who is there to catch the rustlers. The result is, of course, that the two children get involved in the chase and cause considerable trouble. In addition to a highly incredible plot, the actions and conversations of both children are inconsistent with their age levels.

Geisel, Theodor Seuss. Bartholomew and the oobleck; written and il. by Dr. Seuss (pseud.). Random house, 1949. 46p. \$2.00. Gr. 2-4.

More wonderful nonsense from the Court of King Derwin of Didd. This time the king is bored with the ordinary things that come down from the sky - rain, sunshine, fog and snow - and orders his magicians to conjure up something brand new. The new stuff is called oobleck - and what happens from then on as the greenish sticky oobleck paralyzes the court from laundress to king is anybody's guess. Children from 5-8 who are already Dr. Seuss fans will heartily welcome these new adventures of Bartholomew, and this story will make a grand introduction to youngsters who still have not met him. Illustrations are in black and white - and green (the oobleck).

De Leeuw, Cateau. For a whole lifetime; by Jessica Lyon (pseud.); a junior novel. Macrae-Smith, 1949. 221p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D86;D47;D23;D81;D107)

The effect of class distinctions on marriage is the theme of this teen-age novel. Karen Moore, the heroine, comes from a moderately well-fixed, extremely social conscious family. When she falls in love with Bill, a garage mechanic whose ambition goes no higher than possible ownership of a garage, she has to face her mother's strong disapproval and her own ineptitudes in such matters as cooking and budgeting. Through Karen's eyes the reader also sees three other couples with marital problems. Two of these fail to solve their difficulties, and one couple finally works out a satisfactory solution. The problems dealt with are ones that face many young people, and the handling of them is, on the whole, quite acceptable. Of particular

value is the attitude that Karen takes toward her just average mental ability in view of her father's brilliance.

Gould, Jean. Young Thack (William Makepeace Thackeray); il. with Thackeray's original sketches. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 276p. \$2.75 j&shs. (D4;D37)

A very readable biography of the life of William Makepeace Thackeray with the emphasis on his early years. The author is almost too sympathetic toward her subject, especially in describing his school experiences. A less mature treatment than Benet's Thackeray of the Great Heart and Humorous Pen (Dodd, 1947), this one should be of use in junior high school grades.

Govan, Christine Noble. Mr. Hermit Miser and the neighborly pumpkin; il. by Anne Merriman Peck. Aladdin, 1949. 42p. \$1.75.

A rather moralistic story of an old man who would have nothing to do with anyone until his desire for a pumpkin pie led him to make friends with his neighbors. Mediocre writing and illustrations without even a bit of humor to redeem it.

Grant, Bruce. Eagle of the sea; the story of Old Ironsides; il. by Gordon Grant. Rand McNally, 1949. 176p. \$2.50. Gr. 6-8. (D29)

A story of the frigate "Constitution" for younger readers than those who enjoy Hungerford's Fighting Frigate (Follett, 1947). Characterizations are weak, but the action is well handled and the story moves fast enough to hold interest. Excellent illustrations.

Grautoff, Christiane. The stubborn donkey; pictures by Anne Marie Jauss. Aladdin, 1949. 43p. \$1.75.

A slight story about a donkey that was happy until it discovered it was being mistreated. Once he makes this discovery he becomes stubborn and refuses to move until he gets the kindness he wants. As if the story were not clear enough the author ends by stating the moral. The illustrations are gay and amusing. It is a shame the story does not have as much to offer.

Hader, Berta (Hoerner). Little appaloosa; by Berta and Elmer Hader. Macmillan, 1949. 42p. \$2.50. Gr. 2-4.

A pleasant little story about a young boy and his appaloosa pony. There is little action to the story, but it will meet the need for a horse story for the young reader. The illustrations add greatly to the book's appeal - especially the full page spread of horses and Indians. A rather expensive book - it should be examined before purchasing.

Hartwell, Nancy. Gabriella; il. by Jane Castle. Holt, 1949. 244p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D47;4;134)

Gabriella comes to spend a summer with her aunt in an old Pennsylvania house while her news-broadcasting father goes off to foreign parts. The old house is out of repair and expensive; so Gabriella delves into the old journals of the original mistress and helps Aunt Dulcy turn it into a museum.

Gabriella has never had an opportunity to put down roots as she moved around the world with

her father. Now she learns the value of a home and a feeling of permanence. Aunt Dulcy's lameness provides a good example of adjustment to a handicap. There is plenty of romance. Aunt Dulcy meets and marries a widower, and Gabriella finds the stability and common sense of his son vastly preferable to the charm and unpredictability of wealthy Jock Fleming. All of the people are realistic; the story has humor, tenderness and suspense with a number of good values skillfully interspersed.

Headley, Elizabeth. She's my girl! Macrae-Smith, 1949. 223p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D4;D47;D86)

When Jo Redmon was faced with the necessity of giving up her plans for college she turned to the idea of a summer boarding kennel, partly to raise money and partly to occupy her time. It took a lot of hard work - and some harrowing moments - but she did make a success of the venture. The book has the usual Headley mixture of girls and boys and dogs. Although not an outstanding book it should serve as a light novel for teen-age girls and there are some good insights into the problems of growing up.

Heinlein, Robert A. Red planet; a colonial boy on Mars; il. by Clifford Geary. Scribner's, 1949. 211p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D42;D72)

Science fiction at its very best. The author has again projected his story into the future and into space. The scene is Mars - fifty years after the first earth colonies are established there. Two young boys rebel against a tyrannical school master when he confiscates a bouncer (one stage of the Martian's development) that one of the boys keeps as a pet. When they regain possession of the bouncer they also discover a plot against the colony to which their family belongs. Enlisting the aid of friendly Martians they are able to overcome the plotters and take the first steps in declaring Mars' independence of Earth. Written in a realistic style, with careful attention to the small details that add credence to the story.

Henderson, Le Grand. Here come the Parkines! il. by the author. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 183p. \$2.50.

There is a cult of Henderson fans who will welcome this most recent offering. The story concerns the efforts of the Perkins family to make a success of their schooner as a summer cruise, pleasure vessel. The trip is almost ruined by the machinations of the Dilleys (father and son, whose relatives sail a rival schooner). Readers may identify with Perk, but it is more likely that they will simply be irritated at his stupidity and the way Bucktooth Dilley always bests him in a bargain. Recommended for purchase only where there are enough Henderson fans to create a demand for more of his books.

Henry, Marguerite. Sea Star; orphan of Chincoteague; il. by Wesley Dennis. Rand McNally, 1949. 172p. \$2.75. Gr. 4-7. (D116)

The same characters and setting of Misty of Chincoteague appear in this story. Sea Star, a foal that is orphaned during pony penning moves in to take Misty's place, when Misty is taken to New York. The same warmth of characterization that marks Mrs. Henry's other books is found here, and most readers will find this a satisfying sequel to the well-loved Misty.

Holbrook, Stewart. America's Ethan Allen; pictures by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 35p. \$2.50.

Gr. 7-9. (D29)

A story filled with rugged action and fearless characters and illustrations that bring both action and characters vividly to life combined to make a book that few readers will be able to resist. Ethan Allen is the ideal hero - fighting on the side of right and performing feats of almost incredible strength. The illustrations are Lynd Ward at his best. There may be some objections (on the part of adults only) to the head-cracking methods by which Allen won all arguments. He is, however, the kind of hero boys like best, and this should be a book they will enjoy.

Holt, Jack. Lance and his first horse; by Jack Holt and Carolyn Coggins; il. by Wesley Dennis. Whittlesey, 1949. 48p. \$2.00.

A slight story about a six-year-old boy and his first horse. The preponderance of technical terms limits the interest to readers who have horses of their own or who already know a great deal about horses. Not a book for the horse story fan. The story is intended for the beginning reader, but the text is too difficult for most readers below the third grade. An expensive book for the limited appeal.

Hubbard, Freeman H. Vinnie Ream and Mr. Lincoln; il. with photographs. Whittlesey house, 1949. 271p. \$2.75. j&shs.

A biographical novel centered around the strange circumstances that enabled a teen-age girl to realize her ambition of becoming a sculptress, of modelling Lincoln from life at the White House during the Civil War, and eventually of doing the full statue of the Great Emancipator, which now stands in the Capitol.

The action is lively; the characters robust and natural; and war-torn Washington with its muddy streets and anxious citizens is well depicted. The illustrations are photographs of Vinnie and of some of her finest work. A bibliography gives evidence that the author has based his novel on extensive research.

Hungerford, Edward Buell. Escape to danger; Robert Frankenberg, il. Wilcox & Follett, 1949. 282p. j&shs. (D22;D29)

A story about a boy - a young American boy who was captured by the British during the Revolutionary War, spent two years in an English prison, escaped and joined John Paul Jones' ship, the "Bon Homme Richard", in its fight against the British ship "Serapis." The book has the same qualities of vivid action and realistic characterizations that are found in the author's other two "ship" stories. If the "Bon Homme Richard" seems a less vital part of the story than did "Old Ironsides" and the "Oregon", it is probably because its life, although brilliant, was short and there was little time for either the characters or the reader to become really acquainted with her.

Hurd, Edith Thacher. The galleon from Manila; pictures by Frederick T. Chapman. Oxford, 1949. 155p. \$2.50. j&shs.

This fast moving tale starts in Manila in 1709 and ends some months later in the port of Acapulco, Mexico. Sixteen-year-old Felipe de Torres yearns to sail on the galleon, "Encarnacion," with the great admiral, Fernando de Anguelle. He sails, - not as the officer of his dreams, - but as

a prisoner under the captaincy of a ruthless Frenchman who has seized the galleon for smuggling purposes. The bulk of the action takes place at sea where cruelty, intrigue, and piracy abound, and where Felipe is able at last to thwart the plot and prove himself mature and seaworthy. Youthful readers will find this a good story and at the same time learn something of 18th century Spanish shipping in the Pacific.

Jackson, Kathryn. The big elephant; by Kathryn and Byron Jackson; il. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Simon & Schuster, 1949. 23p. \$1.00. (A big golden book)

A mildly interesting story of an elephant who wanted a horn for Christmas - and finally got it. Slapstick type of humor. Nothing of lasting value in either story or the illustrations.

Jackson, Phyllis Wynn. Golden footlights; the merry-making career of Lotta Crabtree; portraits by Lloyd Lózes Goff. Holiday, 1949. 310p. \$3.00 j&shs. (D92)

The same lively style and vivid characterization and balanced selection of background material that made Victorian Cinderella an outstanding biography, are to be found in this new biography by the same author.

In many ways it is less a biography of Lotta Crabtree than of her mother, Mary Ann Crabtree, who bore the brunt of the hardships of those early days and who refused to allow Lotta to become sidetracked.

The book is more than a dramatic biography for this little comedienne plays her role against the backdrop of growing, gold-mad San Francisco with its waterfront cafés; the rough Western mining camps of the gold rush days; and the thriving city of New York. The development of the American theater, the popularity of the minstrel show, the origins of the musical comedy, the grip of thrilling melodrama and the struggles and successes of many old-time actors are all brought in.

Jewett, Eleanore Myers. Mystery at Boulder Point; il. by Jay Hyde Barnum. Viking, 1949. 281p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7. (D42;D4;D48a)

A fairly acceptable - though by no means outstanding - mystery story for girls. The scene is the coast of Maine, and the characters include the motherless daughter of the town's only doctor; an artist, his mother and blind sister; and a young boy with artistic talent and aspiration. There are ghosts (both men and ships), a near tragedy when the two girls are lost in a fog while rowing in the bay, a hurricane, and lost treasure. The story is fast-paced, and the characters are fairly convincing. Dialogue is weak, and the story ends with too many unresolved problems and situations. For purchase only where there is need for more mystery stories.

Kahmann, Mable (Chesley). Gypsy melody. Random house, 1942. 315p. \$2.50. Gr. 9-12. (D72;D61)

Reni is staunch in her loyalty to the gypsies and her scorn for non-gypsies. It comes as a shock to her when Kashi, with whom she is in love, joins the army and, in her eyes, deserts the tribe. Only after she has met several non-gypsies who help her with her music does she realize that Kashi is right, and the gypsies can learn valuable lessons from the non-gypsies. Life in a gypsy camp is vividly portrayed. The author is sympathetic toward the

gypsies, and, at the same time, gives the impression that this is a realistic treatment. A more mature novel than is usually written for teen-age girls and one that should be popular.

Kelly, Eric Philbrook. The amazing journey of David Ingram. Lippincott, 1949. 272p. \$2.50. shs. (D22;D55)

"Being the story of three white men, David Ingram, Richard Twide, and Richard Browne, who crossed, in 1568-69, those lands of the new world which later became the United States of America. They were the first white men to make the journey." David Ingram evidently applies vivid imagination to his experiences, and the author proves himself a master story-teller in making the material into an absorbing tale of Indian adventure. There is a romantically tragic episode of a beautiful Spanish princess for the girls, Indian fights for the boys, and plenty of suspense and humor for all. Based on one of Hakluyt's voyages the book provides a good example of research and documentation for the teen age.

The story is weakened by the final vision of a "land of the free" - an idea that was not current at this period and this social level. The rest of the book, however, greatly outweighs this one false note.

Kelsey, Alice (Geer). Blueberry acres and other stories; with il. by Helen Finger. Friendship press, 1949. 127p. \$1.75.

Contrived, written-to-order stories about a migrant family in the middle west. The stories are designed to show the work of Home Missions, and as such are satisfactory. They have little value for general library collections, but would be useful in Church School libraries.

Kingman, Lee. The best Christmas; il. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1949. 95p. \$1.50. (D37;D116;D130) Gr. 3-5.

The same friendly, likeable family from Rocky Summer (Houghton, 1948). Christmas threatens to be a sad time when Matti's barge is several days overdue. In order to keep the youngest children from being disappointed Erkki makes the toys he knows Matti planned to bring them. Matti, of course, returns in time for Christmas, and so it is the "best" Christmas the family has ever had. The author writes with a warmth and sympathy that take the reader right into the family group to share with them their pleasures and troubles. This is far more than just a Christmas story and has year round value for any library collection.

Kissen, Fan. The straw ox and other tales. Houghton, Mifflin, 1948. 160p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-4.

Some of the traditional folk tales rewritten in radio script form. These tales have been used so often in creative drama classes that it seems unnecessary to have them in this form - especially since the re-writing fails in many instances to capture the spirit of the original. The chief value of the book lies in the directions for the teacher and in the illustrations of various sound effects.

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. A nose for trouble. Holiday house, 1949. 250p. \$2.50. j&shs.

A somewhat new slant for Kjelgaard for the animals in this story are subordinate to the people -

and there is somewhat of a mystery. A well-written story of the mountains and of a game warden's struggles against a gang of poachers.

Knapp, Sally. Eleanor Roosevelt; a biography. Crowell, 1949. 185p. \$2.50.

A highly sentimentalized biography that skims the surface of Mrs. Roosevelt's life and never succeeds in making her a real person. The writing is on a junior high school level, and most readers of that age can handle Mrs. Roosevelt's autobiography.

Knight, Ruth (Adams). It might be you. Doubleday, 1949. 206p. \$2.00. j&shs.

A collection of stories about instances of prejudice and discrimination from Biblical times to the present. Although written for a purpose, the stories are quite readable in style. The book will be of primary usefulness in classes studying inter-cultural relations. It is also of sufficient quality to warrant inclusion in a general library collection.

Krauss, Ruth. The happy day; pictures by Marc Simont. Harper, 1949. 29p. \$1.50.

A pleasant but not very important picture book about the first flower of spring. There is a static quality to the illustrations that prevents them from appealing to children. Not enough text to make up for the weakness of the pictures.

Lancaster, Osbert. The Saracen's head; or, The reluctant crusader; il. by the author. Houghton Mifflin, 1948. 67p. \$2.00.

An adult satire on the Middle Ages and particularly on knights and crusaders. For adults, only. This is not a children's book.

Lansing, Elizabeth Carleton (Hubbard). Rider on the mountains. Crowell, 1949. \$2.50. 278p.

A career book on Frontier Nursing Service. The characters are types, the plot is thin and follows the usual pattern for career stories. There may be some guidance value to the book, but it is not recommended for general purchase.

Leaf, Munro. Arithmetic can be fun. Lippincott, 1949. 64p. \$1.75. Gr. 2&3.

An interesting introduction to some of the arithmetic topics taught in the primary grades. About three-fourths of the fully illustrated text is devoted to the meanings of numbers, the structure of the number system, and the meaning of addition and subtraction. Other topics treated relate to linear measurement, telling time, and the like. Illustrations are attractive and suitable for the author's purpose.

Lee, Tina. Fun with paper dolls; written and designed by Tina Lee; pictures and charts by Manning Lee from models by the author. Doubleday, 1949. 64p. \$2.25. Gr. 4-6.

More of a family book than a library book as the master patterns will present a great temptation for the child to either cut them out or trace over them. The instructions are clear and easy to follow, but the text is too difficult for the beginning reader to handle alone. An excellent book to have on hand for rainy days or convalescence.

Leeming, Joseph. Games with playing cards plus tricks and stunts. Watts, 1949. 224p. \$2.95. All ages.

Clear, easy-to-follow directions for card games for one, two, or several players. In a book of this kind it is understood that some of the games must be omitted, but it is a puzzle as to why pinochle was not included. It is as popular a game and no more difficult than bridge for the young player.

Le Gallienne, Eva. Flossie and Bossie; pictures by Garth Williams. Harper, 1949. 210p. \$2. Gr. 4-6. (D79)

Flossie and Bossie are two bantam hens who have in common only the fact that both want to hatch a setting of eggs. Flossie is the non-descript bedraggled little hen who turns out to be a heroine; Bossie is the proud beauty of the farm yard whose pride brings her downfall. This is not a book that all children will enjoy, but the few who will appreciate the humor should have the opportunity to read it. The quality of writing is above average for children's books. Delightful illustrations.

Le Sueur, Meridel. Nancy Hanks of Wilderness Road; a story of Abraham Lincoln's mother; il. by Betty Alden. Knopf, 1949. 88p. \$2.50.

An overly sentimental treatment of the life of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. Too long sentences and use of the backwoods vernacular of that day make difficult reading for this age group. The same material is available from other sources and in a more readable style.

Lyons, Dorothy. Harlequin hullabaloo; il. by Wesley Dennis. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 264p. \$2.50.

A not-too-convincing story of two young girls who inherit a horse farm in Kentucky and try to make a success of breeding and training saddle bred harness racers. Judy is much too young in her actions and conversation during the book to suddenly end up head-over-heels in love at the end. Her older sister is a completely lifeless colorless character whose only purpose in the story seems to be to go into a decline over a blighted love affair. The horses are the only convincing characters, and they do not appear often enough to counteract the people.

McKeynolds, Bob. Sleepy to the rescue; photographic illustrations by Roy Davenport. Viking, 1949. 62p. \$1.50.

Sleepy is a spaniel whose love for hamburger gets himself and his friend, a police dog, into trouble. The photographic illustrations are excellent. The story leaves much to be desired. Told by Sleepy, it attributes to him the ability to read and to understand anything that people say. May be useful where there is a great need for dog stories but not essential for general purchase.

Maginley, C. J. Make it and ride it; diagrams by Elizabeth D. McKee. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 120p. \$2.00. Gr. 6-9.

A how-to-do-it book of instructions for making scooters, wagons, soapbox cars, etc. Clear, simple instructions with diagrams to help explain terms and sizes. Useful for home and library.

Mariana. Miss Flora McFlimsey's Christmas Eve;

Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1949. 38p. \$1.00.

Sentimental story of the old, forgotten doll, relegated to the attic, who is resurrected, by the joint efforts of Santa Clause and the angel from the top of the Christmas tree, to take her place among the other, newer toys on Christmas morning. The illustrations are lovely, delicately shaded ones, and it is a shame that the text does not live up to them. A book that will be useful for Christmas stocking gifts but has little value for the library.

Masani, Shakuntala. Nehru's story; pictures and story by Shakuntala Masani. Oxford, 1949. 81p. \$2.50.

A beautifully made book - but disappointing in the text. The story was originally written for children of India and presupposes a background of knowledge that few American children have. A rather wooden style of writing further lessens the appeal of the book.

Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Herman the brave pig; il. by George and Doris Hauman. Macmillan, 1949. 120p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-4.

Easy reading for the third and fourth grade. An amusing story of a family's trek from a broken down farm to Sunshine Island where it is always warm and where life is ideal - except for the rattlesnakes. When Herman killed all the rattlesnakes he won a permanent place for himself in the affection of the family and the town. This is the type of story that children can read for themselves and as such has value for the library and in remedial reading classes.

Means, Florence (Crannell). The house under the hill; il. by Helen Blair. Houghton Mifflin, 1949. 184p. \$2.50. j&shs. (D46;D31;D26;D59;D60;D61)

Elena Trujillo, fifteen, is anxious to get away from the tiny New Mexico village where her Spanish ancestors first settled. Her goal is a job in the city where life would be glamorous and gay. Prevented from carrying out her purpose by an accident to her grandmother, she finds new interest in securing a clinic and a doctor for her village. In the development of this project she becomes a new and more interesting person herself and learns that love will find her, even though she stays at home. Good character development of adolescent girl. Plot is more contrived than is usual for this author, but a feeling for the Spanish heritage is well presented, and the attitudes are good.

Meigs, Cornelia Lynde. The two arrows. Macmillan, 1949. 249p. \$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D97)

In 1745 England a court favorite who wanted to rid himself of an enemy could do so by accusing the man of favoring the Stuart pretender to the English throne. By using the same accusation a nobleman living in America caused two boys (one an expert carpenter and woodcarver) to be banished from England to America and sold to him as indentured servants. In spite of their unhappiness over their state of servitude the boys both come to look on America as home, and when their indenture is ended decide to stay in this land. Written with the same suspense and zest that have made this author popular over the years. A useful book for supplementary reading in both U. S. and English History classes; as well as an excellent addition to the fiction shelf.

Mitchell, Broadus. American adventure; frontispiece by Marc Simont. Harper, 1949. 245p. \$2.50.

Rather pedestrian accounts of some of the events that Mr. Mitchell considers to be most representative of the American pioneering spirit. The page set-up and physical format of the book are dull and completely lacking in eye appeal. The book might have some reference value although the lack of an index would hamper its use as such.

Morgan, Alfred Powell. A pet book for boys and girls; il. by the author and by Ruth King. Scribner's, 1949. 246p. \$2.75. Gr. 4-8.

A book that will have a place in every home where there are pets and in every library where there are children. Complete instructions on the care, feeding, training, etc. of pets of all kinds. Nicely illustrated.

Morse, Ray. Cadets at Kings Point. Aladdin, 1949. 249p. \$2.50.

Written in the tradition of the early 20th century this story of the Merchant Marine Academy has all the usual characters and situations. There are the three cadets who are wrongly accused by their fellow classmates and forced to suffer through a year in Coventry; there is the rival who plots to put them in the wrong and is finally expelled from school in a melodramatic scene just before the final game of the season; and, of course, there is the football team that is unified by "our" hero and brought to victory by his efforts.

Norling, Josephine (Stearns). Pogo's sea trip; a story of boats; by Jo and Ernest Norling. Holt, 1949. 50p. \$1.50.

Pogo and John start to go sailing with their father and end up on a boat that tows log rafts. The easy style and interesting subject make the book useful for beginning readers and for remedial reading work. Readers who have liked the other Pogo stories will like this one. It differs from them in subject matter only.

O'Rourke, Frank. The team. Barnes, 1949. 257p. \$2.50. (A Barnes sports novel). j&shs. (D122;69)

A slightly fictionalized account of all that goes into making a big league baseball team. The Philadelphia Phillies serve as a model under the name of Quaker City Quakers. The plot is slight, but baseball fans will not object for the interest here is less in the story elements and more in the behind-the-scenes descriptions of baseball. Told from a coach's point of view, it begins with the months leading up to spring training and takes the team through a season in which they come out in third place. A valuable addition to the collection of baseball lore.

Perry, George Sessions. Families of America; where they came from and how they live. Whittlesey, 1949. 151p. \$3.00

Stories about families on various social and economic levels in America. The author's purpose seems to be to show that there is little discrimination in America and that where it exists the people discriminated against make adjustments and are not really handicapped. Writing is mediocre, and the book has little value outside of classes in intergroup relations.

Petersham, Maud (Fuller). The box with the red wheels; a picture book by Maud and Miska Petersham. Macmillan, 1949. 28p. \$1.50. K-gr.2.

A picture book with a real surprise ending that will delight both adults who are reading the story and the youngsters listening. The animals, each a familiar one, take turns peering into the strange-looking box, but not one knows what is inside - 'til out pops a baby! The animals are pictured realistically in such a gentle, friendly manner that even a child who is afraid of one or all of them might be persuaded to overcome his feelings. The warm reds, yellows and black make the illustrations glow. Pictures and text combine to make a truly beautiful, outstanding book.

Prud'hommeaux, René. The sunken forest; il. by Raffaello Busoni. Viking, 1949. 248p. \$2.50. Gr. 5-7.

A mystery story in an unusual setting - the sunken forest on Fire Island off the coast of New York. The plot is built around a spy intrigue with the usual complement of false clues, secret compartments, and children succeeding where adults have failed. Only the superior ability of the author has saved the book from being just another spy story. To an unusual setting, he has added unusual characters (a six-foot, baby faced orphan, an artist father who turns out to be a special agent, and a professor who seems a kind of father-confessor to them all).

Robinson, Lincoln Fay. Goldie and Yellowhammer; story and pictures by Lincoln Fay Robinson. Viking, 1949. 32p. \$1.50.

Story of a friendship between a cat and a chicken. The story is very slight, and there is nothing in the illustrations to make them particularly appealing to children.

Rodman, Oliver H. P. The boy's complete book of fresh and salt water fishing; by Oliver H. P. Rodman and Edward C. James; drawings by Jack Murray. Little, Brown, 1949. 275p. \$3.50.

Much valuable information about fresh and salt water fishing that is unfortunately lost in a welter of anecdotes and personal reminiscences. The talking-down, condescending tone is irritating. Lack of an index further hampers the use of the book as a source of information.

Running, Corinne. When coyote walked the earth; Indian tales of the Pacific Northwest; il. by Richard Bennett. Holt, 1949. 71p. \$2. Gr.4-6.

Indian tales about the origin of the world and the days before man was created. Good material for the story-teller.

Schloat, G. Warren. Adventures of a letter. Scribner's, 1949. 48p. Gr. 4-6. \$2.00.

Interesting account of the workings of the U.S. postal system. Follows the route of a letter from the time it is mailed in California until it is delivered in a small town in New York State. A slight story to help sustain the interest. Excellent photographs that almost tell the story without the need of text.

Seaman, Augusta (Huiell). The vanishing octant mystery; il. by Ursula Koering. Doubleday, 1949. 206p. \$2.25.

A slight mystery built around the recurring appearance and disappearance of an octant as it is washed to shore and out again by the ocean tides. The subject will have little appeal to most readers.

The use of coincidence to further the plot is greatly overdone.

Sechrist, Elizabeth Hough, ed. Once in the first times; folk tales from the Philippines; il. by John Sheppard. Macrae Smith, 1949. 215p. \$2.50. Gr. 4-6.

Part one of this book will furnish storytellers with some new and entertaining folk tales. Part two consist of variations of well-known European tales that have little to offer except to the student of folk lore.

Shurtleff, Bertrand Leslie. Two against the north; a story of Husky and Spareribs; il. by Diana Thorne. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 274p. \$2.50.

A poorly written story of Alaska that depends on scenes of extreme cruelty to men and animals for interest. This tabloid type of appeal has no place in children's literature, and books such as this one have no place in libraries of any kind, home, school or public.

Skaar, Grace. The very little dog. Scott, 1949. 18p. \$1.00. (A young Scott book). 2-5yrs.

Story for 2-through-5-year-olds about the very little dog who goes through the normal stages of growth 'til he becomes a GREAT BIG DOG. The two-color illustrations and clear print, which increases in size as the dog grows, will be easy to follow. After a few readings, youngsters will probably be able to tell the story for themselves as well as add details of growing up.

Slobodkin, Louis. Bixxy and the secret message. Macmillan, 1949. 94p. \$2.00. Gr. 3-5.

Bixxy is a carrier pigeon who cannot always be relied on to remember whether he is going or coming. On one important occasion he falls by the wayside - right into some soft tar -, is rescued by a cub scout, and fails to deliver his message. It turns out to be a fortunate failure for he has the wrong message, and only his lack of dependability saves the country's supply of cinnamon buns. This is strictly Slobodkin humor - sometimes sophisticated, sometimes the ridiculous situation that children enjoy. The book will probably have its greatest appeal for cub scouts - and would-be cub scouts.

Sperry, Armstrong. Black Falcon; a story of piracy and old New Orleans; written and il. by Armstrong Sperry. Winston, 1949. 218p. \$2.50. j&shs.

The Black Falcon is the notorious smuggler, Jean LaFitte, and this is the story of how he and his rugged band came to the aid of Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans and thus won a pardon for his questionable privateering activities. It is told from the point of view of a 16-year-old boy who has sought a haven with LaFitte after his father was killed running the British blockade. The account of the Battle is excellent and LaFitte is swashbuckling and glamorized. There is even a thread of romance for the girls.

Steiner, Charlotte. Kiki dances. Doubleday, 1949. 30p. \$1.25. (Junior books) K-gr.2.

The idea of presenting ballet to this age group is a new one, and this alone will probably

make Kiki a popular little girl. After trying to imitate a tight rope walker, a magician and a cow-girl - Kiki finds her niche as a ballet pupil and later dances successfully at a costume party. There is very little to the story, and the illustrations are often wooden and expressionless, but some of the usual Steiner humor is still present.

Stevenson, Augusta. Myles Standish; adventurous boy; il. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 191p. \$1.75. (Childhood of famous Americans series). Gr. 3-5.

Fictionized biography of the early life of Myles Standish. There is nothing to authenticate this material, but it is a picture of boy life as it was probably lived at that period - and it could have been the kind of life Standish lived. This is neither better nor worse than the others in the series. Libraries that have found a use for the other books will probably find this one equally useful

Swayne, Sam. Great-grandfather in the honey tree; written and il. by Sam and Zoa Swayne. Viking, 1949. 53p. \$2.00. Gr. 3-7.

When grandfather sets out on a hunting foray almost anything can happen - and does. Starting out with the thought of "just catching a few fowl" grandfather has one hilarious coincidence after another - his collar button pops off and stuns a partridge, a falling tree kills a deer, shooting at one he kills seven turkeys. How this wonderful haul was finally brought home and put to use will delight children as much as the account of the adventures. Would require at least a 6-or-7-year-old sense of humor to enjoy this tall-tale, and it would be most fun read aloud to a group of children. The illustrations give the effect of an old-fashioned photograph album. They may be too static to appeal to children, but adults will enjoy them.

Turpin, Edna. The story of Virginia; il. by Luther Coleman Wells. Random house, 1949. 50p. \$2.50. Gr. 3-5.

A simplified account of the founding, colonization, and development of Virginia. Colorful illustrations add much to the text. A useful book for history classes, and one that children should enjoy as individual reading.

Voight, Virginia F. Apple tree cottage; il. by Eloise Wilkin. Holiday house, 1949. 157p. \$2.25 Gr. 3-5. (D37)

The double appeal of an unusual family and a mystery make this a story small girls should enjoy. The Warren family live in Philadelphia during the winter so that the father can earn a living and travel all summer in a caravan so he can paint. One spring he becomes ill soon after leaving the city; the girls take the responsibility of finding a place to live - and end up in Apple Tree Cottage. From there the mystery progresses to a swift and satisfying ending.

Wagoner, Jean (Brown). Abigail Adams; a girl of colonial days; il. by Sandra James. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 186p. \$1.75. (Childhood of famous Americans series). Gr. 3-5.

From the time she was born Abigail Adams was an extremely delicate child, and her family had little hope that she would live. In this story of her

childhood the author has managed to give a picture of the difficulties such a child would have living in a large and robust family. This biography succeeds in creating a more realistic character than do most of the books in this series. There is added value in the child's reactions to the handicaps imposed by her ill-health.

Watkins, Richard. Crocodile crew; il. by Lois Darling. Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 248p.

\$2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D92;D135)

Starting with a hurricane - Don Willard's winter in Florida provides one excitement after another. He and his friend, Sam, save the Crocodile Queen during the hurricane and then persuade the owner to let them lease her and try to build up a vacation cruise. Rivalry with another pleasure boat almost ruins their venture, but they finally come through the season with a profit. A fast-paced story that is unusual enough in setting that it should be of interest to middle grade readers.

Webber, Irma Eleanor (Schmidt). It looks like this; a point-of-view book. Scott, 1949. 40p. \$1.00.

It all depends on your point of view - as four mice learned when they tried to identify animals they saw from their four vantage points in the barn. A book intended for very young readers to make them aware of differences in perspective. It was not particularly successful when used with a group of kindergarten children. However, it has been used in elementary school art classes with a moderate degree of success.

Widdemer, Mabel Ross (Cleland). Harriet Beecher Stowe, Connecticut girl; il. by Charles V. John. Bobbs-Merrill, 1949. 196p. (Childhood of famous Americans series). Gr. 3-5.

The childhood and early youth of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Fails to create any real feeling of the vivid Beecher family or of the forces that helped to make Harriet the prominent person she became. Might be used for remedial reading classes.

Williamson, Margaret. The first book of bugs; written and il. by Margaret Williamson. Watts, 1949. 40p. \$1.50. Gr. 3-5.

An excellent book for beginning science classes - and just for fun. Clear, simple text that describes most of the insects children are likely to come across, plus a few unusual ones. The illustrations add immeasurably to the text. This is a book that should be in home libraries for family use as well as in school and public library collections.

Yates, Elizabeth, ed. The Christmas story; arr. by Elizabeth Yates; il. with wood engravings by Nora S. Unwin. Aladdin, 1949. 54p. \$2. All ages.

The Christmas story told through selected passages from the Bible. The illustrations are somewhat sombre, but they match the dignity of the text and of the physical make-up of the book. This will probably be most useful as a book to suggest for home libraries.

Zim, Herbert Spencer. Snakes; il. by James Gordon Irving. Morrow, 1949. 64p. \$2.00. Gr. 5-7.

In his usual extremely readable style the author gives facts and explodes fancies about most of the snakes that are to be found in this country. Excellent illustrations add to clarity of the text.

New Editions of Old Favorites.

Aesop's fables; from the trans. of Thomas James and George Tyler Townsend; introd. by Angelo Patri; il. by Glen Rounds. Lippincott, 1949. 162p. \$2.50. (Lippincott classics). Gr. 5-7.

Humorous illustrations, well in keeping with the spirit of the fables, add much to the value of this edition. Like the other titles in this series, this is an excellent piece of bookmaking - and should be popular both in home and library collections.

Bagnold, Enid. "National Velvet"; il. by Paul Brown. Morrow, 1949. 306p. \$3.00. shs.

New format, larger type, and better page set-up make this a welcome edition for library use. Although the movie will create interest on a lower grade level, the text is definitely mature and the book belongs in the senior high and adult collections. This is a good story and it is hoped the improved format will increase its popularity.

Brunhoff, Jean de. Babar and Father Christmas; trans. from the French by Merle Haas. Random house, 1940. 38p. \$1.00.

Children everywhere love Babar the elephant. This new edition brings them the adventures of Babar and Father Christmas in the bright clear colors and simple text that have made the other books favorites. A good read-aloud book.

Carroll, Lewis (pseud.) Alice's adventures in Wonderland and Through the looking glass; with il. by Leonard Weisgard. Harper, 1949. 159p. \$3.50.

Definitely a book for personal judgements. Weisgard fans will like the lavish use of color and overlook the static humorless qualities of the illustrations. Tenniel fans will feel that this is a waste of effort on the part of the author and of materials on the part of the publisher.

Disney, Walt. The adventures of Mr. Toad; from the original story The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame; il. by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by John Hench from the Walt Disney motion picture "Ichabod and Mr. Toad." Simon & Schuster, 1949. 25p. \$1.00. (A big golden book).

In true Hollywood fashion Disney has borrowed a title and the names of a few characters from The Wind in the Willows and then proceeded to write his own story. Mr. Grahame's version is infinitely superior in quality of writing as the Shepard or Rackham illustrations are superior to Disney's work.

Karasz, Ilonka, il. The twelve days of Christmas; in pictures by Ilonka Karasz. Harper, 1949. 26p. \$1.50.

A favorite Christmas carol in a delightfully new setting. The decorative Karasz illustrations are in perfect harmony with the "old English" flavor of this well-loved carol, and the two blend to make a handsome book for Christmas giving. The complete melody is given at the end of the book. Librarians should find a place for such a book in the art collection and in the special holiday collections. It will also be welcomed by both adults and children as an addition to a home music library.

Moore, Clement Clarke. The night before Christmas; Esther Friend, il. Wilcox & Follett, 1949.

22p. \$1.00.

Bright, cheerful colors that reflect the gaiety and excitement of Christmas. Boards.

Moore, Clement Clarke. The night before Christmas; il. by Corinne Malvern. Simon & Schuster, 1949. 26p. 25¢. (A little golden book)

Less well done than the Friend edition (see above). Acceptable for the price.

Mother Goose. Mother Goose; art work and clay-toons directed by Maxwell Dorne and Bill Sasse; color photography by Maxwell Dorne. Random house, 1949. 69p. \$1.00.

A colorful edition that may be used as a gift book for home libraries.

Price, Margaret (Evans). Myths and enchantment tales; stories and il. by Margaret Evans Price. Rand McNally, 1926. 160p. \$2.00.

A new edition of an old time favorite. The stories are available in other collections, and the old-fashioned pictures have little appeal for modern children and adults.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading, and Sources of Material

Antiquarian Bookman. Nov. 12, 1949. American juvenile number.

Contains an article on the comics by Jacob Blanck.

Book Bulletin of the Chicago Public Library. Books for young people, 1948-49. Vol. 51, no. 9, Nov, '49. Graded list.

Brown, Helen A. & Heltman, Harry J., eds. Let's-read-together poems; an anthology of verse for choral reading in kindergarten and primary grades. Row, Peterson, 1949. \$2.00.

A valuable collection for choral reading groups. Contains directions for using the poems. Primarily a teacher's book.

Carnier, Carl. American folklore and its Old-World backgrounds.

Davis, May Gould. Following the folk tales around the world.

Two articles reprinted from Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia. Available on request at no charge.

Emo, Isabel V. "Books for children from broken homes." English Journal 38:457-8. October, 1949.

List of books that have proved useful with children from broken homes.

Famous festivals of America. A wall display printed in full color. Free. Greyhound Information Center, P. O. Box 815, Chicago 90, Illinois.

Gray, William S., ed. Classroom techniques in improving reading. Supp. Educational Monograph, No. 69, October 1949. Univ. of Chicago Press. 246p. \$2.75.

Proceedings of the annual Conference on Reading held at the University of Chicago, 1949.

Heavly, Regina. "Goodbye, William Shakespeare." English Journal 38:512-15. November, 1949.

A protest against the use of re-written classics for children and against the forcing of children to read classics before they are ready for them.

Hurlock, Elizabeth B. Adolescent development.

New York, McGraw-Hill. 1949. 566p. \$4.50.

Summarizes findings in the major studies in the field of adolescent development.

National Council of American-Soviet Friendship.

List of exhibits available from the Council.

Requests for information should be addressed to: N.C.A.S.F., 114 East 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y.

The New York State Library. The bookmark.

Vol. 9, No. 2, Nov. 1949. 10¢ a copy.

Contains a list of inexpensive bindings, series and editions of children's books.

Olson, Willard C. Child development. Boston,

D. C. Heath, 1949. 417p. \$4.00.

Summarizes the findings of major studies in the field of child development.

Potter, Muriel Catherine. Perception of symbol orientation and early reading success. Con-

tributions to education, no. 939. Teachers College, Columbia University, 1949. \$2.10.

Recent Children's Books, Fall, 1949. Compiled by Helen Kinsey, The Booklist, American Library Association.

An excellent list of outstanding fall books recommended by the List Committee of the American Library Association Division of Libraries for Children and Young People. May be obtained in quantities only, from The Sturgis Printing Co., P. O. Box 329, Sturgis, Michigan.

"The River Song" from The Blue Cat of Castle Town,

words by Catherine Coblentz, Music by Francis X. Hagney. Longmans, Green, 50¢.

Rudolf, Kathleen Brady. The effect of reading instruction on achievement in eighth grade

social studies. Contributions to education, no. 945. Teachers College, Columbia University 1949. \$2.10.

Russell, David Harris. Children learn to read.

(bibls. & bibl. footnotes). Ginn, 1949. 415p. il. \$3.25.

Reading problems the teacher may encounter in the modern elementary school. Gives an overall view of the process of child development and suggests the sociological, historical and psychological backgrounds of reading instruction.

Shepherd, Edith E. "How to interest students in a variety of better magazines." English Journal 38:444-47. October, 1949.

One teacher's experiences in the use of magazines in the tenth grade classes.

Sickels, Evelyn R. North American folklore;

books for boys and girls. 7p. mime. Free.

Graded list; some annotations. Compiled by Evelyn R. Sickels, Supervisor of Work with Children, Public Library, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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